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Highly Heterogeneous Depleted Mantle Recorded in the Lower Oceanic Crust

Sarah Lambart^{1,2*}, Janne M. Koornneef³, Marc-Alban Millet¹, Gareth R. Davies³, Matthew Cook¹,
C. Johan Lissenberg¹

¹ Cardiff university, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences, Cardiff, United Kingdom

² University of Utah, Department of Geology and Geophysics, Salt Lake City, United States

³ Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Faculty of Science, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The Earth's mantle is heterogeneous as a result of early planetary differentiation and subsequent crustal recycling during plate tectonics. Radiogenic isotope signatures of mid-ocean ridge basalts have been used for decades to map mantle composition, defining the depleted mantle end member. These lavas, however, homogenize via magma mixing and may not capture the full chemical variability of their mantle source. Here we show that the depleted mantle is significantly more heterogeneous than previously inferred from the compositions of lavas at the surface, extending to highly enriched compositions. We perform high spatial resolution isotopic analyses on clinopyroxene and plagioclase from lower crustal gabbros drilled on a depleted ridge segment of the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge. These primitive cumulate minerals record nearly the full heterogeneity observed along the northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge, including hotspots. Our results demonstrate that substantial mantle heterogeneity is concealed in the lower oceanic crust and that melts derived from distinct mantle components can be delivered to the lower crust on a centimetre scale. These findings provide a starting point for re-evaluation of models of plate recycling, mantle convection, and melt transport in the mantle and the crust.

The mantle, Earth's largest geochemical reservoir and main source of volcanism, records the time-integrated history of recycling of oceanic lithosphere and its overlying sediments during the plate tectonic cycle^{1,2}. The compositional heterogeneity thus generated within the mantle reflects this

recycling process^{2,3}; determining the magnitude and length scale of this heterogeneity will enable a reconstruction of the recycling process and mantle convection, ultimately providing a window onto the dynamics of our planet. Mid-ocean ridge basalts (MORB) have been the primary tool to map geochemical heterogeneity of the oceanic upper mantle for decades³⁻⁵. However, because MORB mix in crustal magma chambers^{6,7}, the degree to which they are representative of its mantle source remains poorly constrained. Hence, the true heterogeneity of the MORB mantle source is uncertain, providing a significant barrier to understanding the magnitude and scale of recycled crust and the long-term evolution of the mantle.

One approach is to analyse the isotopic compositions of abyssal peridotites. These mantle samples may preserve a wider range of isotopic compositions than associated lavas⁷⁻¹⁴. However, they represent the melting residue of the MORB source, and potentially could have therefore lost the most fusible material¹⁰ (pyroxenite, eclogite) thought to represent recycled, enriched, components¹. Furthermore, interpretations are complicated by the common occurrence of recent refertilization in the lithospheric mantle beneath the ridge axis¹¹⁻¹³ and severity of alteration^{7,11}.

In this study, we overcome this problem by conducting crystal-scale Nd and Sr isotopic analyses on primitive cumulate minerals from the lower oceanic crust, and show that these cumulate minerals crystallised from heterogeneous melts extending to significantly more enriched compositions, than the associated MORB.

High magnitude small-scale heterogeneity in cumulate minerals

This study focuses on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) segment north of the Atlantis Transform Fault (30°N), which is predominantly composed of volcanic rocks with isotopically depleted, normal mid-ocean ridge basalt (N-MORB) compositions¹⁵. Along the ridge-transform intersection, an uplifted dome of ultramafic and mafic plutonic rocks exposed by detachment faulting (the Atlantis Massif¹⁶) provides a window into the lower oceanic crust. Drill core of gabbroic cumulates (International Ocean Drilling Program, IODP Hole U1309D) yielded a detailed, 1415 m record of

the lower crust¹⁶, which, along with the associated volcanic rocks, provides a unique opportunity to compare the isotopic heterogeneity of melts delivered to the lower crust with those erupted onto the seafloor. Results of Nd ($^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$) and Sr ($^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$) isotopic analyses on individual micro-drilled clinopyroxene and plagioclase crystal domains from plutonic rocks of Hole U1309D are shown in Fig. 1. We compare these data with whole rock isotopic compositions of diabase and microgabbros collected on the same core, associated basalts flows (IODP Sites U1310 and U1311), and Atlantic MORB and abyssal peridotite data from the literature, in Figs 1 and 2.

The results indicate that cumulate minerals: (1) are significantly more isotopically heterogeneous than the associated diabase and lavas, exceeding the range of $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ in MORB from 30°N by a factor of seven (Fig. 1); (2) capture a significant proportion of mantle heterogeneity reported in abyssal peridotites (Fig. 2a,b); and (3) record almost the full Nd isotopic heterogeneity currently observed in all of North Atlantic MORB (including the enriched, plume-influenced Azores platform, Iceland and Jan Mayen; Fig. 2a,b). Furthermore, Nd isotopic heterogeneity occurs down to the centimetre scale, with plagioclase and clinopyroxene from individual samples commonly not in isotopic equilibrium (Fig. 3). This small-scale heterogeneity can be explained by multiple replenishments in the crystal mush leading to dissolution-crystallization episodes¹⁷ and juxtaposition of diverse populations of crystals¹⁸. At the grain scale, cores show more primitive compositions (higher Mg# in clinopyroxene and anorthite content in plagioclase) than rims (see Supplementary Fig. 1) suggesting that the cores crystallized from primitive melts upon melt emplacement in the crust, while rims crystallized from late-stage percolating melts¹⁹. Once minerals have formed, Nd diffusion is too slow to destroy grain-scale heterogeneity: at the solidus temperature of a gabbro Nd zoning is preserved in calcic plagioclase on a 100 μm -scale for more than 10Myrs²⁰; diffusion of Nd in clinopyroxene is even slower²¹.

$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios are similarly variable. Most plagioclase data fall on the Sr-Nd isotopic data array defined by global MORB (Supplementary Fig. 2) and could conceivably represent primary values. However, clinopyroxenes typically record higher $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ than plagioclase, suggesting

seawater alteration may have overprinted mantle signatures. Hence, we use only Nd isotope data for the interpretation.

A t-test shows no statistical difference between clinopyroxene and plagioclase $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ but together, the cumulate minerals represent a distinct population compared to basalt, diabase and microgabbros (p -value <0.0002). However, the mean whole rock $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ of the diabase, microgabbros, and associated basalt flows (0.513198 ± 41) is within the 2σ error of that of the cumulate minerals (0.513138 ± 187). Thus, there is no difference in the average compositions of the cumulate minerals relative to the basalt, diabase and microgabbros, but cumulate minerals record a larger variability. This indicates that cumulate minerals represent products of crystallization of small amount of melts that have undergone limited mixing before being delivered to the crust, whereas erupted MORB represent averages of much higher volumes of magmas that have been significantly mixed together at shallower depths.

Depleted mantle composition and temperature variations

These findings have important implications for both the magnitude and scale of heterogeneity of the upper mantle. The striking similarity of the Nd isotopic frequency distribution of cumulate minerals at Hole U1309D with that of North Atlantic MORB as a whole (Fig. 4) indicates that mantle heterogeneity beneath the Atlantis Massif is representative of the magnitude of heterogeneity in the North Atlantic basin. It follows that it is the proportion of recycled material in the aggregated magma, rather than the degree of isotopic enrichment of the recycled material in the source, that is responsible for variations in MORB isotopic compositions. If so, along-axis MORB variations should record the proportion of each component in MORB and in the mantle source along the axis. To assess this hypothesis, we use an adiabatic mantle melting model²² to calculate: (i) the required proportion of recycled, material-derived melt to reproduce the Nd isotopic ratio of North Atlantic MORB (see Methods); (ii) the corresponding fraction of recycled material in the mantle source; and (iii) the thickness of oceanic crust generated along the ridge axis. It has been

suggested that MORB at the scale of a ridge segment (i.e., ~ 300 km) experienced common differentiation processes²³. Hence, we used the weighted average MORB compositions at a segment scale. The melt derived from the recycled material has a higher Nd abundance than depleted peridotitic melt¹¹. Hence, adding a small amount of depleted peridotitic melt to the recycled material-derived melt does not significantly affect the isotopic composition of the latter. Conversely, even a small contribution of recycled material-derived melt can significantly modify the isotopic composition of the depleted peridotite melt in such a way that the isotopic signature of the depleted component is unlikely to be preserved in the cumulate minerals (see Methods). Hence, we used the most enriched composition recorded in cumulates ($^{143}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512800 \pm 15$) and the most depleted composition recorded in North Atlantic abyssal peridotites ($^{143}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.513662 \pm 18$)⁷ as isotopic compositions of the mantle end-members. Assuming the recycled material is represented by recycled oceanic crust²⁴ (see Methods), the calculation yields a proportion of recycled material-derived melt in locally averaged MORB of 27-59% (Fig. 2c). This proportion is a function of both the proportion of recycled material in the source and the mantle potential temperature (Supplementary Fig. 6a). To convert the proportion of recycled material-derived melt in MORB to a proportion of recycled material in the mantle we performed three sets of calculations: (1) we fixed the mantle potential temperature to $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$ and calculated the fraction of recycled material in the source required to explain the melt compositions; (2) we fixed the fraction of recycled material in the mantle at 4% (i.e., the average fraction estimated in the first set of calculations) and calculated the T_P required to explain the melt compositions; and (3) in a hybrid model, we varied both the proportion of recycled material and the mantle potential temperature. These calculations also yield melt volume, and hence crustal thickness. To evaluate the validity of these models we compare the calculated crustal thickness for each ridge segment with their average seafloor depth, a proxy for crustal thickness²⁵ (Fig. 2d and Supplementary Fig. 6b-e).

Varying the mantle potential temperature alone clearly failed to match the elevation profile by creating negative thickness anomalies around the major hot spots and producing crustal thickness variations much larger than those observed in the Atlantic basin²⁶. Furthermore, it required a large range of mantle potential temperatures (1180-1440°C). It is worth noting, however, that varying the potential temperature of a heterogeneous mantle can create a negative correlation between the contribution of the pyroxenite in the melt (Fig. 2c) and the crustal thickness (Supplementary Fig. 6b), as observed for the Vema lithospheric section¹². Varying the proportion of recycled material alone did not reproduce small scale elevation variations on ridge segments far from the hot spots²⁷. It also did not reproduce the bathymetry anomaly centered on Iceland. This anomaly is attributed to a significantly thickened crust (> 10 km)²⁶, likely produced by higher mantle potential temperature or high melt flux²⁸. However, large-scale variations, such as the higher elevations of Jan Mayen and the Azores platform, are overall better correlated with thickness variations due to small variations of proportions of recycled material in the source rather than with thickness variations due to temperature variations. The best match is obtained by the hybrid model. Considering a variation of crustal thickness between 3 and 11 km²⁶, both compositional and elevation profiles are reproduced by varying T_P between 1245°C and 1367°C and the proportion of recycled material in the source between 3.2 and 8.5% (Fig. 2d; Supplementary Fig. 6d-e). Hence, our calculations support a model where higher proportion of recycled material in the source around the hot spot creates clear crustal thickness and chemical anomalies along most of the northern MAR without requiring large ($>120^\circ\text{C}$) thermal variations.

Limited magma mixing during melt transport in the mantle

The finding of high-magnitude mantle heterogeneity delivered to the crust down to the centimetre scale requires that the MORB source is heterogeneous on a length scale smaller than the melting region. Variations of melt production have been observed along the northern MAR on a scale of 25-50 km²⁹. If this length scale of variation is due to various proportions of mantle

components in the source region, then the scale of individual compositional domains must be smaller. Short (10^{-3} to 10^{-2} m) Nd (and Sr) isotopic heterogeneity can persist over timescales of 10^9 yr in the solid mantle³⁰. However, short mantle heterogeneities decrease the likelihood of extracting the melt in (chemical) isolation, and melt-solid diffusion may destroy the isotopic signatures. Hence, our study supports the prevalence of a kilometer size length scale of heterogeneity in the MORB mantle source^{12,31}.

Crucially, the isotopic heterogeneity we observe in the Atlantis Massif cumulate minerals provides strong evidence that heterogeneous melts are delivered to the lower crust without significant mixing. Most melt generated by decompression melting is considered to be extracted from the mantle through high-permeability channels^{32,33}. It has previously been argued that channelised melt transport is accompanied by significant mixing³¹. However, if this were the case, it would quickly dilute heterogeneous isotopic compositions. Hence, our results suggest that magma mixing inside the channels is limited. We propose that each mantle component could generate its own network of channels to account for both preservation of isotopic heterogeneities and rapid magma transport³⁴ (Fig. 5). Melt-rock reactions between recycled material-derived melt and subsolidus peridotite favour a (near) closed-system evolution^{35,36}, and thermal diffusion can nucleate channelization that preferentially samples melts from the most fusible component^{37,38}. Eventually, magmas from the less fusible adjacent mantle can also start to focus together through reactive or mechanical instabilities^{30,33}. Such processes would discourage mixing between magmas derived from each component and preserve extreme isotopic compositions (Fig. 5).

In conclusion, the isotopic heterogeneity revealed in the lower oceanic crust provides strong evidence that the limited isotopic variability recorded in MORB is a consequence of crustal-level mixing of melts from a highly heterogeneous source. Furthermore, our novel analytical approach offers considerable potential to assess the full heterogeneity delivered to the crust across a range of geodynamics settings. Finally, these new findings require re-evaluations of models for convective thinning and stretching during mantle convection^{39,40} and for melt migration through the mantle and

the crust^{31,41} to account for greater isotopic heterogeneity and limited magma mixing in the depleted mantle.

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Materials & Correspondence. Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Sarah Lambart (sarah.lambart@utah.edu).

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Author contributions: JL designed the study. SL and JL wrote the manuscript with input from MAM, JK and GD. SL and JL selected the samples. SL and MC performed the element maps. SL performed trace element analyses and geochemical modelling. SL and JL performed micro-milling, and SL, JL, MAM and JK performed column chemistry and isotopic analyses.

Competing interests. The authors declare no competing interests.

Figure captions:

Fig. 1. Isotopic compositions of Atlantis Massif cumulate minerals. $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ (a) and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (b) ratios of clinopyroxene (green) and plagioclase (blue) cores of cumulate gabbroic rocks from IODP Hole U1309D, compared with whole rock (WR) isotopic analyses performed in this study (red symbols) and on gabbroic rocks recording less than 40% alteration⁴² (black crosses). The grey bands represent the compositional variability of MORB analysed in this study and reported in the literature (PetDB database⁴³) at the same latitude ($30^\circ\text{N} \pm 1^\circ$). Error bars: 2SEE; mbsf = metres below seafloor.

Fig. 2. Isotopic compositions of cumulate minerals, abyssal peridotites and MORB along the northern MAR and results of geochemical modeling. a-b. $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ (a) and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ (b) ratios measured in this study, in MORB (PetDB Database⁴³) and in abyssal peridotites^{7,12,13} from the northern MAR. Red dotted lines show the latitude of the major hotspots affecting MORB compositions¹⁵. Error bars: 2 SEE. In (b), the vertical dashed lines show the isotopic compositions of the two mantle components used in calculations and the yellow circles are the average MORB compositions per ridge segment. **c.** Calculated fraction of recycled, material-derived melt in the averaged MORB. **d.** Comparison of the calculated crustal thicknesses generated by varying the proportion of recycled material and the potential temperature (dashed green line) with the averaged elevations of the collected MORB (orange line).

Fig. 3. Intrasample heterogeneity. $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios of plagioclase (black circles) and clinopyroxene (colored circles) as a function of the anorthite (An) content of the plagioclase in the sample. Analyses from individual samples are connected by black tie lines. The blue line and field show the average and 2 σ composition of the cumulate minerals. The red line and field show the average composition and 2 σ of MORB (basalts, diabase and microgabbros).

Fig. 4. Frequency distribution of Nd isotopic compositions. Comparison between plagioclase and clinopyroxenes from primitive cumulates (this study) and North Atlantic MORB (grey: all data; yellow: MORB not affected by hot spots¹⁵).

Fig. 5. Illustration of magma delivery from a two-component mantle to the crust. The fusible and enriched recycled material (in red) starts to melt at higher pressure than the depleted peridotite. Both lithologies nucleate their own network of high-permeability channels, facilitated by melt-rock reaction^{35,36} and thermal diffusion^{37,38}, and by mechanical³⁰ and/or chemical³³ instabilities, respectively. Generation of separate networks limits magma mixing and help to deliver a larger isotopic variability to the crust. The shallowest axial magma chamber host a larger volume of

magma where mixing and crystallization continue, resulting in the loss of much of the primary mantle diversity.

Methods

Geological setting and sample selection

The Atlantis Massif is a 1.5-2 Myr old oceanic core complex on the western rift flank of Mid-Atlantic Ridge 30°N. IODP Sites U1309, U1310 and U1311 were drilled during Expeditions 304 and 305. The main hole, Hole U1309D, penetrated 1415.5 mbsf and recovery averaged 75%. Over 96% of Hole U1309D is made up of gabbroic rock types, which are amongst the most primitive as well as freshest plutonic rocks known from the ocean floor¹⁶.

We selected 74 samples from the core U1309D samples to cover the entire drill hole, including 28 olivine gabbros, 8 troctolites, 7 olivine-rich troctolites, 11 gabbros, 4 oxide gabbros, 2 gabbro-norites, 6 microgabbros and 7 diabases. We also collected 9 basalt and glass samples recovered at IODP sites U1310 and U1311.

Element maps and selection of mineral for isotopic analyses

Forty of the selected samples were polished and carbon-coated to perform major and minor element maps. Element maps were obtained at Cardiff University on a Zeiss Sigma HD FEG-SEM equipped with dual Oxford Instruments X-max 150 mm² energy dispersive silicon drift detectors. We used an acceleration voltage of 20 kV and a dwell time of 9 ms. The beam current and aperture were adjusted to obtain optimum output count rates of ~410,000 cps, enabling rapid mapping of large proportions of the samples at high spatial resolution (step size 20 µm). Raw counts were background corrected using Oxford Instrument's AZtec software, which was then used to generate multi-element maps.

From these element maps, we selected primitive, fracture and inclusion free, plagioclase (high anorthite, An, content) and clinopyroxene (high Mg# and low TiO₂/Cr₂O₃ ratio) cores for

micromilling (Supplementary Fig. 1). We also preferentially selected large minerals (when possible) to limit the depth of each drill hole and the number of holes required to collect the sufficient amount of material for Nd isotopic analysis. Finally, we carefully examined every selected drilling area for fractures or inclusions and redefined the drilling area accordingly.

LA-ICP-MS measurements and estimations of the Nd and Sr content of the sample

We determined trace element concentrations on the selected clinopyroxenes and plagioclases using laser ablation inductively coupled plasma mass spectroscopy (LA-ICP-MS). Analyses were performed at Cardiff University on a New Wave research UP213 UV laser system attached to a Thermo X Series 2 ICP-MS. Each mineral underwent two analyses (by lines) to allow mineral compositional variability to be assessed. A minimum length of 300 μm and a beam diameter of 80 μm were used, with a laser operating at 10 Hz frequency and sample translation at 6 $\mu\text{m s}^{-1}$. Acquisition time was about 80s (20s gas blank, >50 s acquisition, 10s washout)

We used the silicate glass standard NIST 612 as reference material, and clinopyroxene and plagioclase Ca contents, measured by SEM-EDS, served as internal standard. We tested the accuracy of the measurement with two external standards (BIR and BCR-2G) analyzed every 10 samples. Based on 10 BCR-2G measurements, the relative errors on the trace element contents lie between 0.3 and 15%, with 3.8% and 5.2% for Nd and Sr respectively (Supplementary Fig. 3).

Micro-sampling via Micro-mill

Micromilling of the samples was performed in the Faculty of Sciences at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA) and in the School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at Cardiff University. We used a procedure adapted from the that described by Charlier et al.⁴⁴ for thick sections. Polished billets were first placed in an ultrasonic bath of Milli-Q water (standard purity with a final resistivity of >18.4 M Ω) for 20 min, and then cleaned with acetic acid for one minute and finally cleaned and

dried with ethanol. Drill bits were also cleaned between each sampling in 0.165HCl for 2s and then in an ultrasonic bath of Milli-Q water for 10min.

We placed 2-3 drops of Milli-Q water on the area to be drilled. The drilled material is brought in suspension as the drilling proceeds. When the solution becomes saturated, it was pipetted into a Teflon vial previously cleaned for isotope chemistry and new drops of Milli-Q water were added to the drilling area. During the whole drilling procedure, we made sure that Milli-Q water was always present on the drilling area. Finally, at the end of the drilling sequence, all the water on the sample was collected.

After the micromilling was complete, we estimated the sampled volume by measuring the surface area and the depth of the hole. We also checked for the presence of inclusions. This gave us a maximum estimate of the volume of material collected, as not all the drilled material is recovered. Total procedural blanks were performed by simulating a 60min milling sequence on a clean sample. A clean drill bit was immersed into Milli-Q water on the rock slab sample, and the water was collected and resupplied following the same procedure than a regular micro-milling sequence in order to collect a similar amount of water. The blanks were then processed by column chemistry following the same procedure as the samples (see below).

Column chemistry

Separation of Sr and Nd from plagioclase and clinopyroxene cores

Column chemistry on plagioclase and clinopyroxene powders was performed at VUA and in the CELTIC laboratory at Cardiff University. Samples were dissolved in Teflon vials in a 4:1 mix of HF and HNO₃ on a hotplate at 140 °C for 3 days. Sr and rare earth elements (REEs) were separated from the matrix in a setup whereby Sr Resin columns (Eichrom, 50 µl resin) are placed directly above TRU Resin columns (Eichrom, 150 µl resin). By placing the Sr column above the TRU Resin column during loading and washing, the pre-fraction from the Sr Resin column (in 3 M HNO₃) was directly eluted onto the TRU Resin column, after which the two column sets were

separated and Sr and REE were eluted. Finally, the Nd was further separated from the other REE in a Ln-Resin column procedure (see Fig. 5 in Koornneef et al.⁴⁵ for details). Due to the large sample size needed for Nd isotope analyses for plagioclase, most Sr plagioclase samples were subjected to a second pass of Sr chemistry.

Total procedural blanks varied between 38 and 43 pg for Sr and 2 and 12 pg for Nd. The blanks were determined by isotope dilution using an ⁸⁴Sr spike and a ¹⁵⁰Nd spike respectively.

Separation of Sr and Nd on whole rock

We performed whole rock (WR) isotopic analyses on six diabase samples, five microgabbros and one olivine-rich troctolite from the core U1309D, as well as on eight basalts and one basaltic glass recovered from IODP sites U1310 and U1311 (see Supplementary Figure 1 for locations of the drill cores). Column chemistry was performed in the CELTIC laboratory at Cardiff University. Samples were crushed into an agate ball mill grinder and we collected between 200 and 300 mg. All but the glass sample (1310-A1-13-19) were leached in hot 6 M HCl for 3 h and then rinsed to remove unbonded Sr⁴⁶. The glass powder was leached at room temperature in 6 M HCl for 30 min. After centrifugation of the samples, the supernatant was discarded and samples were washed in MQ, centrifuged again and the supernatant was again discarded. Residual powders were then digested in hot concentrated HNO₃ and HF for 24 h, dried down, taken up in 1 mL of concentrated HNO₃ and dried down again before being redissolved in 8 M HNO₃, and centrifuged.

Sr was separated in a double pass through a 1 mL pipette-tip column containing Sr-spec resin. Samples were loaded in 8 M HNO₃ and sample matrix (including Ca and Rb) was removed in the same acid. Sr was then collected in 0.05M HNO₃⁴⁷. Samples were dried again and sequentially brought into solution in concentrated HNO₃ and HCl, refluxed on a hotplate for at least 24 h, and finally dried down prior to being brought into solution in dilute HCl.

Nd was separated in two steps. The REE were first separated from the sample matrix using columns filled with a cation exchange resin (BioRad AG50W-x8, 2.5 mL). The REE fraction was then dried and Nd was separated using columns filled with Ln-Spec resin (Eichrom, 1.1 mL)⁴⁸. Total procedural blanks were 10 and 15 pg for Sr and Nd, respectively.

Mass spectrometry

Clinopyroxene and plagioclase samples

Sr and Nd analyses on plagioclase and clinopyroxene cores were performed on a Thermo Scientific Triton-Plus TIMS at VUA. Samples and standards were loaded on outgassed Re filaments in a clean air flow unit. Strontium analyses were performed using annealed Re filaments in a single filament set-up whereas for Nd analyses annealed and zone-refined Re filaments were used in a double filament configuration for the evaporation and ionisation positions, respectively^{45,49}. Isotope analyses were performed using 10^{11} Ω amplifiers in the feedback loop of the Faraday detectors. Six of the current amplifiers installed in the TRITON Plus at VU Amsterdam have the conventional 10^{11} ohm resistors, whereas the other 4 amplifiers are equipped with 10^{13} ohm resistors. The Sr and Nd collection measurements reported here were carried out using the same static analytical approach as Koornneef et al.⁴⁹.

The estimated amount of Nd and Sr analyzed, as well as the number of cycles for each analysis, are reported in Supplementary Table 1. An 11 min baseline was measured during heating of the sample and subtracted online from the raw intensity values. In most cases, analyses were run to exhaustion. On average, we acquired 194 and 214 cycles for Sr isotopic analyses in plagioclase and clinopyroxenes, respectively, and 85 and 97 cycles for Nd isotopic analyses in plagioclase and clinopyroxene, respectively.

The intensities on the 87 Mass are corrected for minor ⁸⁷Rb contributions by using the canonical ⁸⁷Rb/⁸⁵Rb of 0.3857. Sm was not detected for all but three clinopyroxenes (149R2-68-71a, 252R4-3-6a and 257R1-95-100a). For the three clinopyroxenes where we detected ¹⁴⁷Sm we

correct the 144 intensity using $^{144}\text{Sm}/^{147}\text{Sm} = 0.20502$. Nd and Sr measurements are subsequently corrected for instrumental mass fractionation by using the exponential law, and $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$ and $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$, respectively. To test the accuracy of the measurements, 7-8 mg of BHVO-2 standards were passed through the complete chemical procedure. Filaments were loaded with either 2 or 10 ng of Nd, and with 200ng of Sr. Data are within the error of the preferred values reported in GeoReM database (Supplementary Fig. 4).

Whole rock

Sr and Nd isotope ratios were measured on a Nu Instruments multi-collector (MC)-ICP-MS system in the CELTIC laboratory at Cardiff University in static mode. Sr isotopic measurements were normalized internally to $^{86}\text{Sr}/^{88}\text{Sr} = 0.1194$ and NBS-987 was run every five samples as a secondary correction to account for small variations in non exponential mass bias. ^{86}Kr interferences were below background level, therefore no correction was made. Nd isotopic measurements were normalized internally to $^{146}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.7219$ and JNd-i was run every five samples a secondary correction to account for small variations in non exponential mass bias. Accuracy of the measurements was tested using JB-2 as a secondary standard that was passed through the complete chemical procedure and the Sr and Nd isotopic ratios obtained are indistinguishable within error from the preferred values reported in GeoReM database (Supplementary Fig. 5).

Calculation of the contribution of the recycled material to the parental melts and fraction of recycled material-derived melt in parental melts

For the enriched component, we used the isotopic ratio of the most enriched clinopyroxene analysed in this study ($^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.512800 \pm 15$; $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr} = 0.702884 \pm 9$). Such isotopic signature can be reproduced by partial melting of a ~ 1.1 Ga recycled gabbro⁵⁰ (Supplementary Fig. 2). We used the same major and trace element composition used to calculate the age, i.e. the average oceanic

gabbro composition estimated by Hart et al.²⁴. For the depleted component, we used the isotopic ratio of the most depleted abyssal peridotite reported along the MAR (Vema lithospheric section⁷, $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd} = 0.51366$) and major and trace element compositions of the depleted endmember of the depleted MORB mantle (D-DMM⁵¹). To estimate the fractions of each end-member in the parental melts of cumulate minerals, we need to know the Nd content of melt generated by each end-member. Following the approach used by Lambart et al.²², we considered that the mantle follows an adiabatic path, with a potential temperature of $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$. Both components are in thermal equilibrium and chemically isolated. We used Melt-PX⁵² to calculate the Pressure (P) – Temperature (T) - Melt fraction (F) path. We considered that both lithologies were chemically isolated but in thermal equilibrium. Calculations performed with Melt-PX take into account heat transfer between the different lithologies. Calculations were stopped when the mantle column had upwelled to the base of the crust, i.e. when the pressure at the base of the crust, $P_c = P$. The initial fraction of recycled gabbro in the mantle source (i.e., 5%) was chosen such that a 5-6 km crust thickness was generated²⁹. We used alphaMELTS⁵³ to calculate the mineral assemblage at each pressure step (i.e., every 100 bars) for each lithology. We calculated the Nd content of the melt derived from each lithology along the adiabatic path using incremental batch melting calculations, integrating the liquid produced over the melting region and dividing by the total volume produced (see Lambart²² for details on calculations). Accumulated Nd content of the melt derived from the recycled crust ($[\text{Nd}]_{\text{RC}}$) and DDMM ($[\text{Nd}]_{\text{DDMM}}$) are 8.1 and 2.7ppm, respectively. We can solve for the fraction of recycled crust (F_{RC}) required to explain the isotopic mineral compositions such as:

$$\begin{aligned} ^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}_{\text{cpx/plag}} = & (F_{\text{RC}} \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{RC}}) / (F_{\text{RC}} \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{RC}} + (1 - F_{\text{RC}}) \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{DDMM}}) \times ^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}_{\text{RC}} + \\ & (1 - (F_{\text{RC}} \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{RC}}) / (F_{\text{RC}} \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{RC}} + (1 - F_{\text{RC}}) \times [\text{Nd}]_{\text{DDMM}})) \times ^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}_{\text{DDMM}} \end{aligned}$$

Nature of the enriched component.

As noted above, we assumed that the lowest $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratio is produced by partial melting of a ~ 1.1 Ga recycled gabbro⁵⁰. However, other processes can produced similar isotopic ratios, such as a

small contribution of recycled sediments⁵⁰ or the partial melting of hybrid lithologies resulting from
 the mixture between older recycled material and peridotite. Contribution of sediments is
 accompanied by strong enrichments in $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $^{176}\text{Hf}/^{177}\text{Hf}$, which are difficult to reconcile
 with the observed MORB array⁵⁰. To investigate the effect of the nature of the enriched material on
 our calculations, we performed an additional set of calculations using a hybrid lithology, produced
 by a 1:1 mix between recycled gabbro and depleted peridotite. We used KG1⁵⁴ for the major
 element composition and calculated trace element composition as a 1:1 mixture between the
 oceanic gabbro²⁴ and D-DMM⁵¹. The most enriched clinopyroxene Nd isotopic ratio can be
 reproduced assuming the recycled gabbro is ~ 1.3 Ga⁵⁰. The calculated Nd content of the
 accumulated melt derived from KG1 is 3.8ppm. Solving for the fraction of KG1 in the melt, we
 obtained significantly higher (48 to 75%) contribution of KG1-derived melt in the aggregated
 magma. Using the estimated fraction of KG1 in the melt, we calculated the corresponding fraction
 in the source. We can then estimate the proportion of recycled crust in the mantle simply using the
 relationship $X_{\text{RC}}^{\text{source}} = 0.5 X_{\text{KG1}}^{\text{source}}$. Both calculations produce similar profiles of thickness
 variation (Supplementary Fig. 6c). However, for $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$, calculations using KG1 yield to a
 proportion of recycled crust between 9 and 21% (Supplementary Fig. 6e). These estimations are
 significantly higher than previous estimation for the amount of recycled crust in the mantle source
 of MORB^{55,56}. In summary, the enriched signature can reflect either the direct participation of
 crustal material (i.e., by partial melting) or its indirect participation, by interaction with the
 surrounding peridotite and subsequent melting of an “enriched” peridotite/hybrid lithology.
 However, because of the higher solidus temperatures of peridotite or hybrid lithology such as KG1
 in comparison to the recycled crust⁵¹, the proportion of enriched material in the mantle required to
 reproduce the enriched melt composition is significantly higher in the latter case, resulting to a
 higher initial proportion of recycled crust needed to produce this enriched composition.

Condition for the preservation of the mantle component isotopic signatures.

The recycled crust has a higher melt productivity⁵² and Nd abundance²⁴ than the peridotite⁵¹. Hence, even a small degree of mixing will dilute the signature of the most depleted component. Inversely a small contribution of depleted peridotite melt to the recycled crust-derived melt will not significantly affect the isotopic composition of the latter, and aggregated melts are more likely to sample the enriched end-member composition. In fact, 14% of recycled crust-derived melt in the aggregated magma is required to change the Nd isotopic ratio of the melt from 0.51366 to 0.51332 (i.e, from the most depleted abyssal peridotite⁷ to the most depleted cumulate mineral). However, a 14% addition of peridotite melt to the recycled crust-derived melt would only change its isotopic ratio from 0.51280 to 0.51283 (i.e, unchanged within error). Hence, while the isotopic composition of the depleted end-member is most likely to be diluted, the most enriched composition observed in cumulate minerals is a good representative of the enriched end-member in the mantle beneath the Atlantis massif.

Code availability. The code used to calculate adiabatic melting of a two component mantle source, Melt-PX⁵², can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.1002/2015JB012762>.

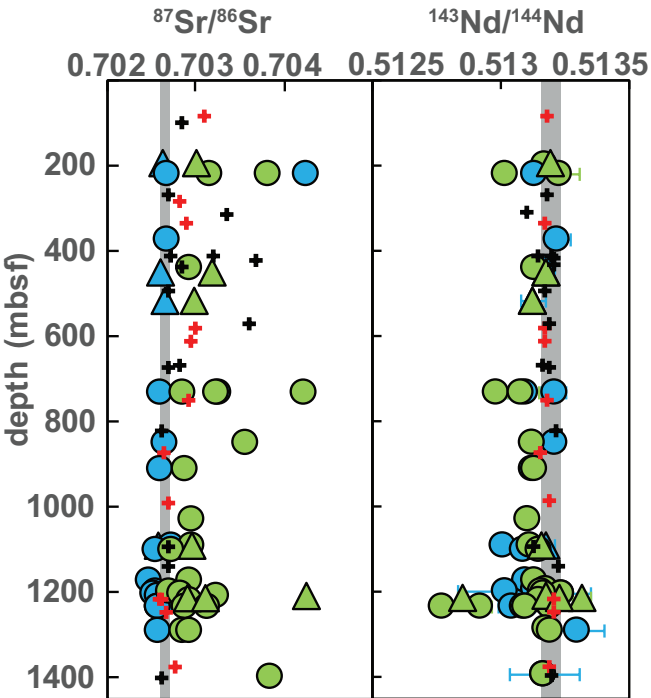
Data availability. The authors declare that data supporting the findings of this study are available within the paper, the Methods and in the PetDB data repository (http://www.earthchem.org/petdbWeb/search/readydata/MAR55S-52N_major_trace_isotope.csv).

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Cpx Plg



Olivine gabbro/troctolite

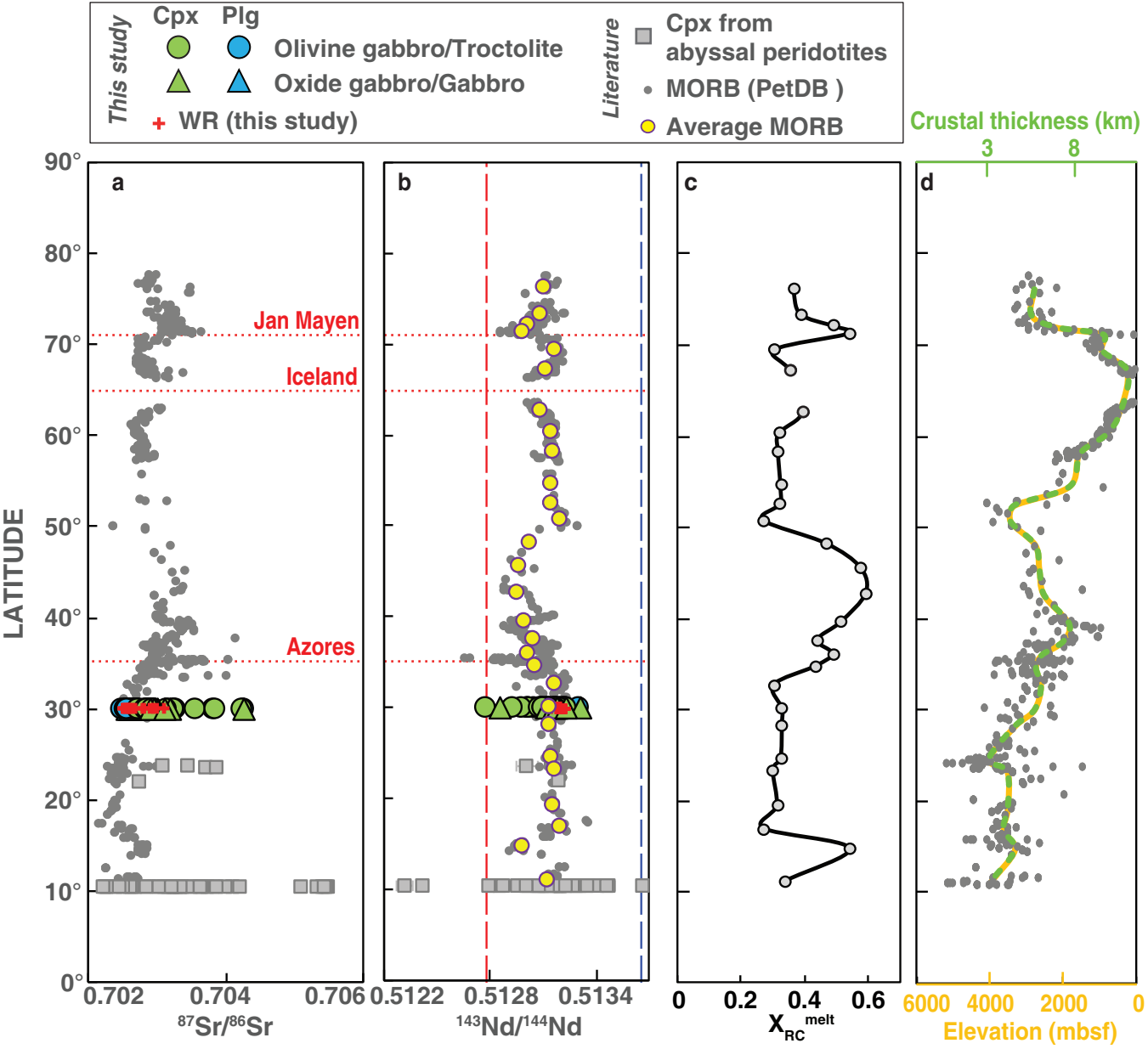


Oxide gabbro/gabbro

+ WR (this study)

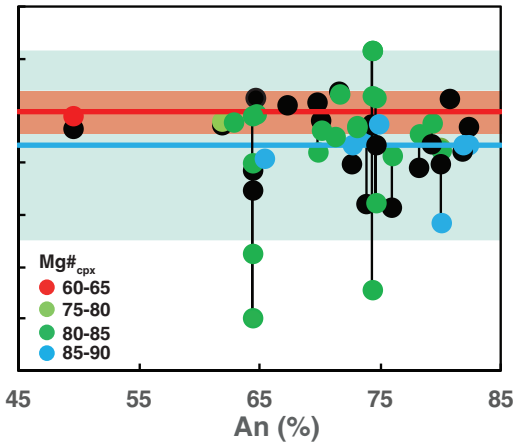
+ WR (literature)

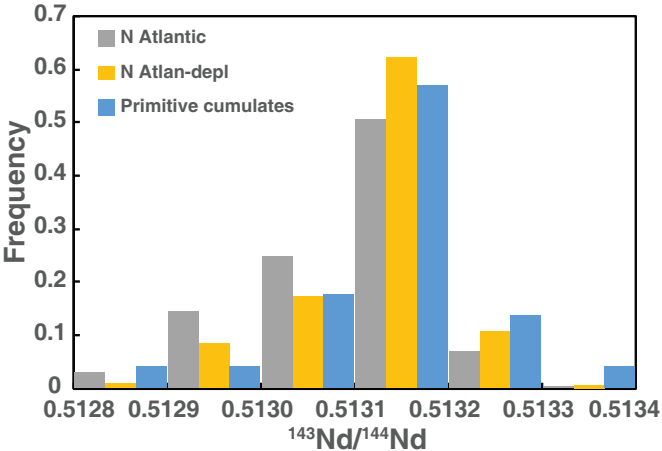
■ MORB ($n = 14$)

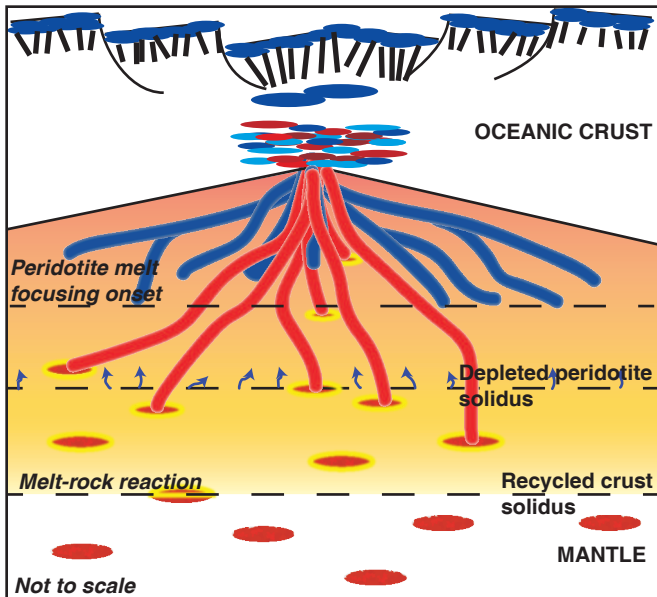


$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$

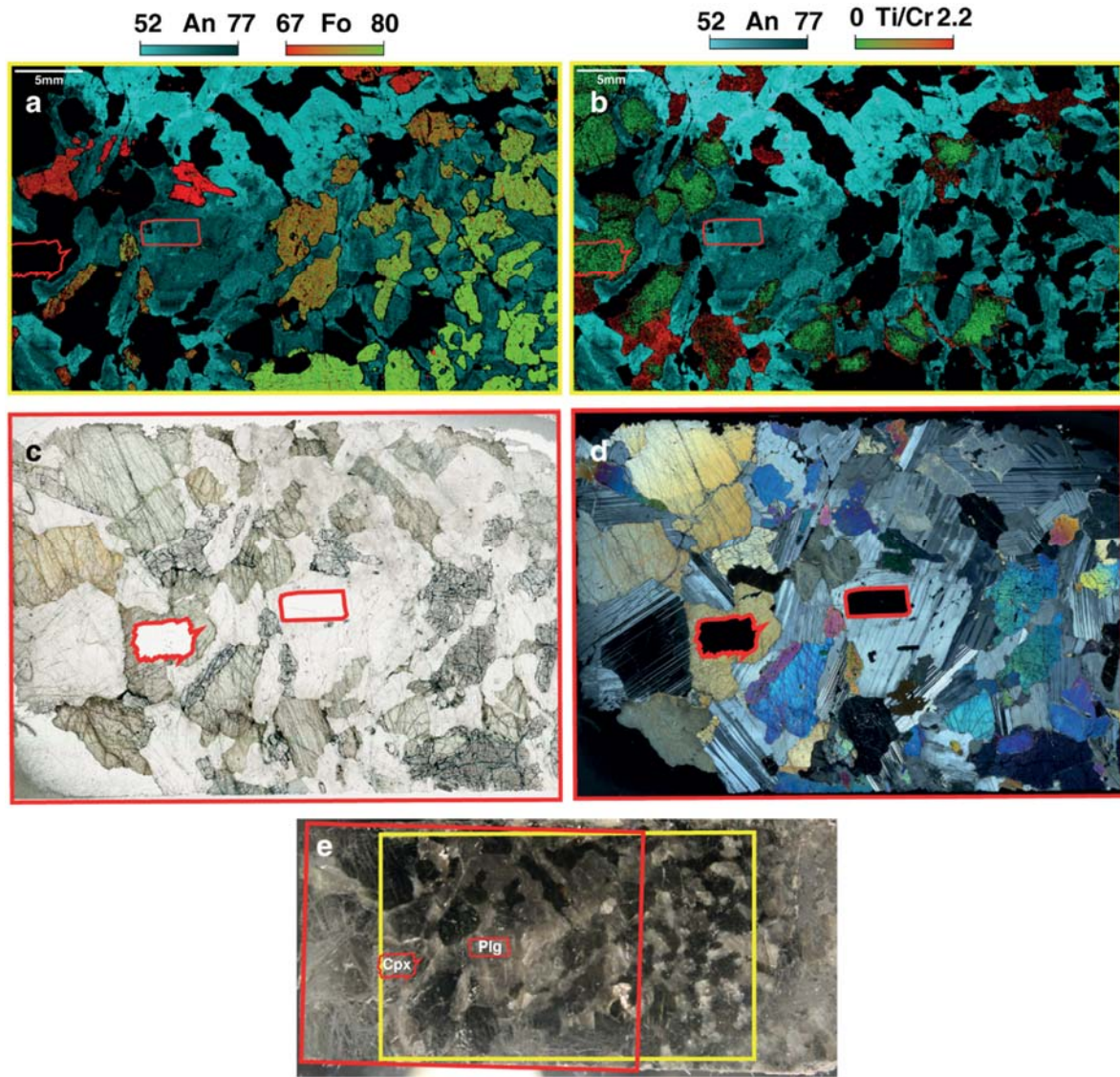
0.5134
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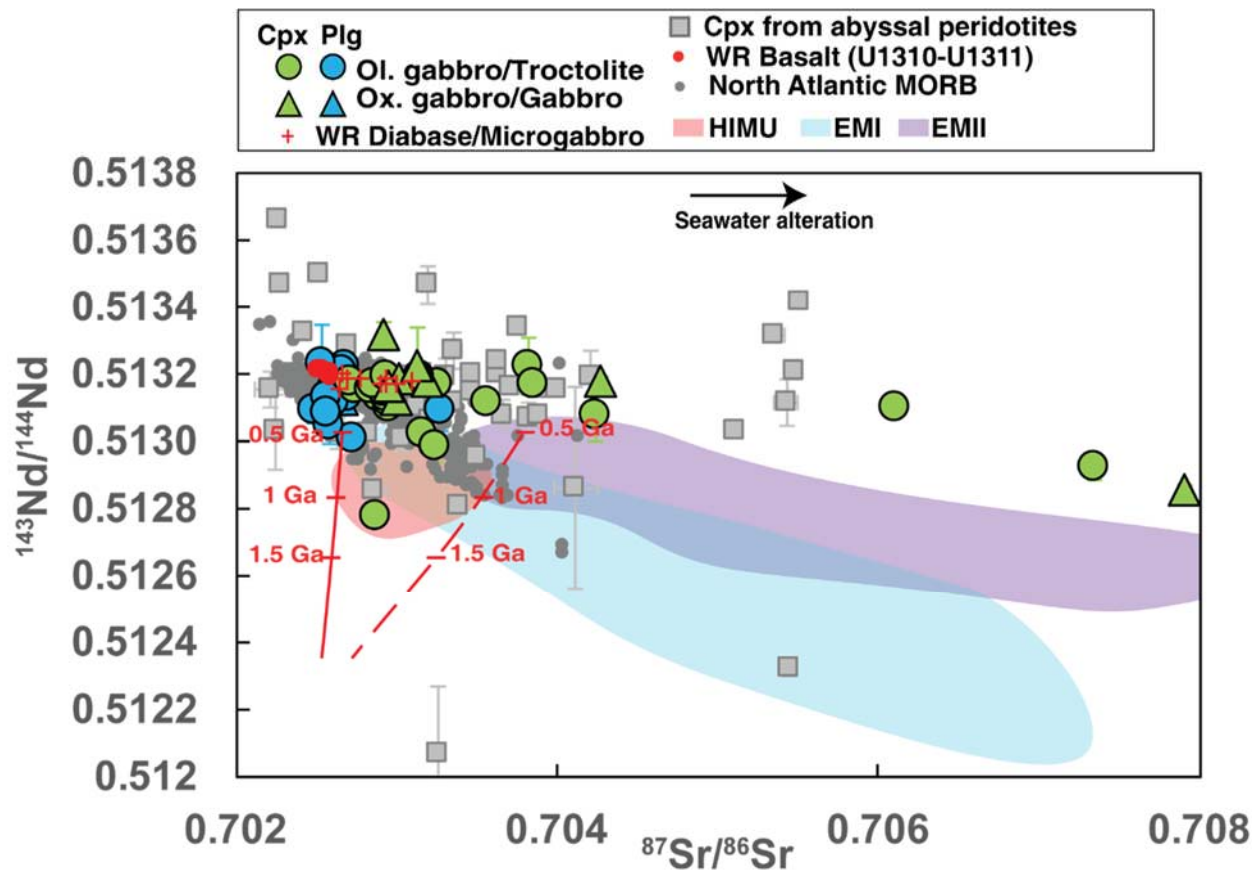




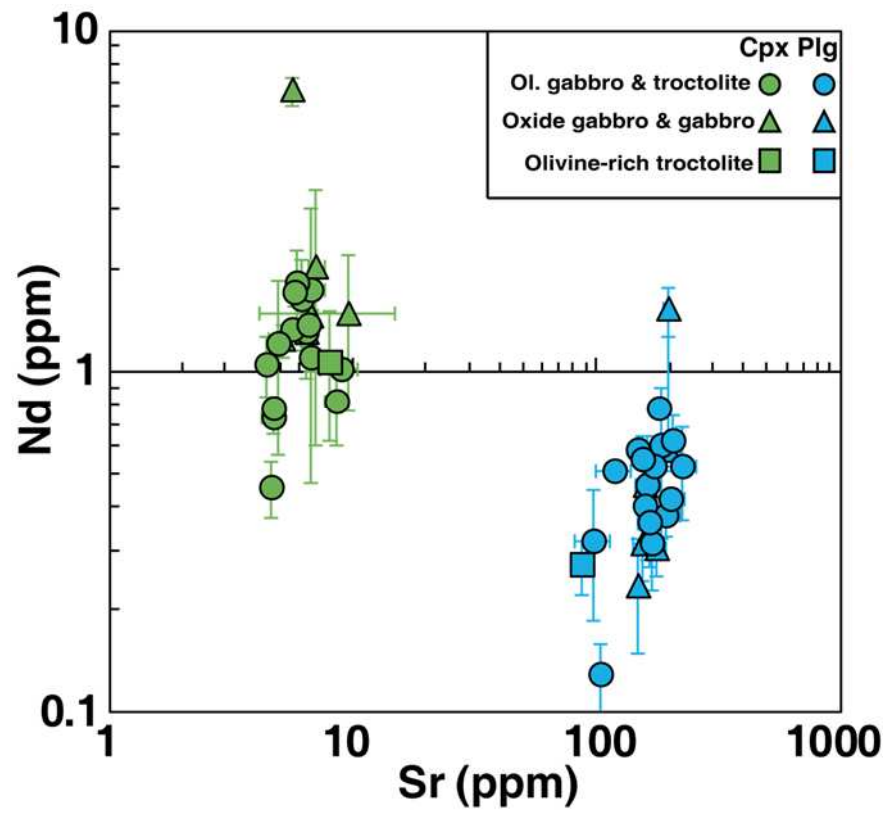
Supplementary Figures and Table to accompany ‘Highly Heterogeneous Depleted Mantle Recorded in the Lower Oceanic Crust’ by Lambart et al.



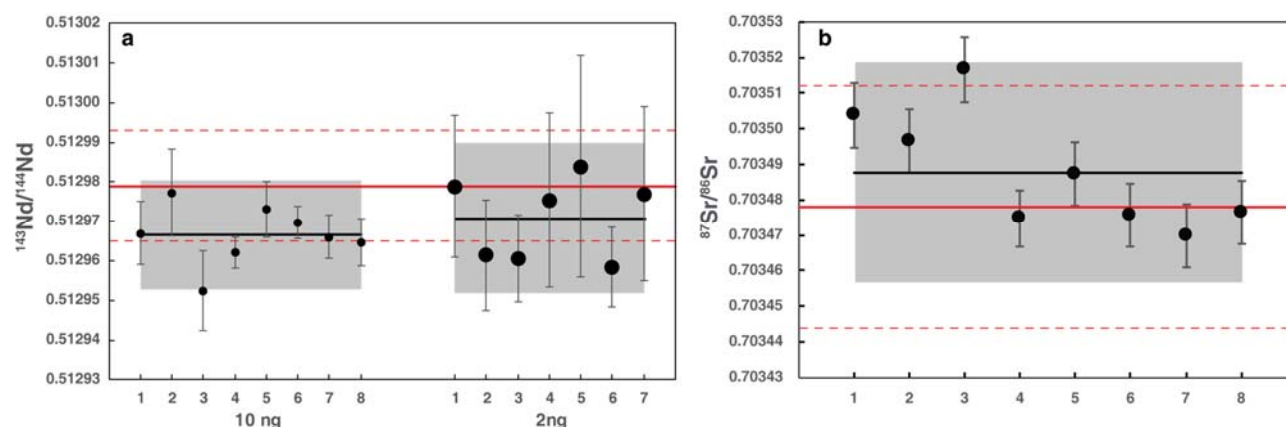
Supplementary Figure 1. Illustration of the method for selecting micro-milling sites. Mg–Fe–Na (a) and Ti–Cr–Na (b) element maps, photomicrographs (c–d) showing the microdrill locations, and core photo (e) showing the element map area (yellow), the thin section area (red) of the olivine gabbro 268R3-6-12 from IODP Hole U1309D. Map (a) shows Fo (red to green) and An (light to dark blue) content variations of olivine and plagioclase at the scale of the sample. Clinopyroxene appears black because Fe and Mg have been scaled to show the olivine compositions. Map (b) highlight An content of plagioclase and TiO₂/Cr₂O₃ ratio in clinopyroxene. Red highlighted area indicate microdrill location. A noteworthy feature is the substantial An, Fo and TiO₂/Cr₂O₃ variations on a cm scale (a-b).



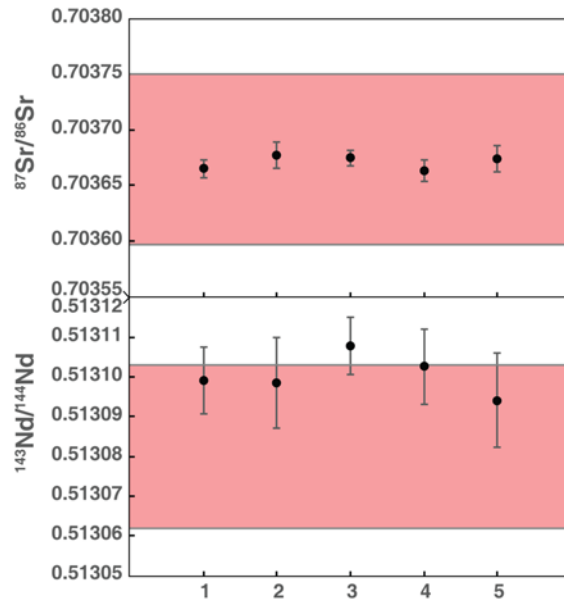
Supplementary Figure 2. Comparison between isotopic compositions analysed in this study and compositions of North Atlantic MORB. $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ versus $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios of Atlantis Massif clinopyroxene and plagioclase compared with whole rock (WR) diabase and basalt isotopic analyses performed in this study, the North Atlantic MORB compositions reported in the literature (PetDB database⁴²) and the clinopyroxene compositions from abyssal peridotites collected along the MAR^{7,12,13}. Compositional fields of HIMU (red), EMI (blue) and EMII (purple) basalts are shown for comparison⁵⁰. The red lines are calculated present-day isotopic compositions of recycled oceanic gabbro affected (dashed line) or not (solid line) by seawater alteration, as a function of recycling age⁵⁰. Error bars: 2SEE.



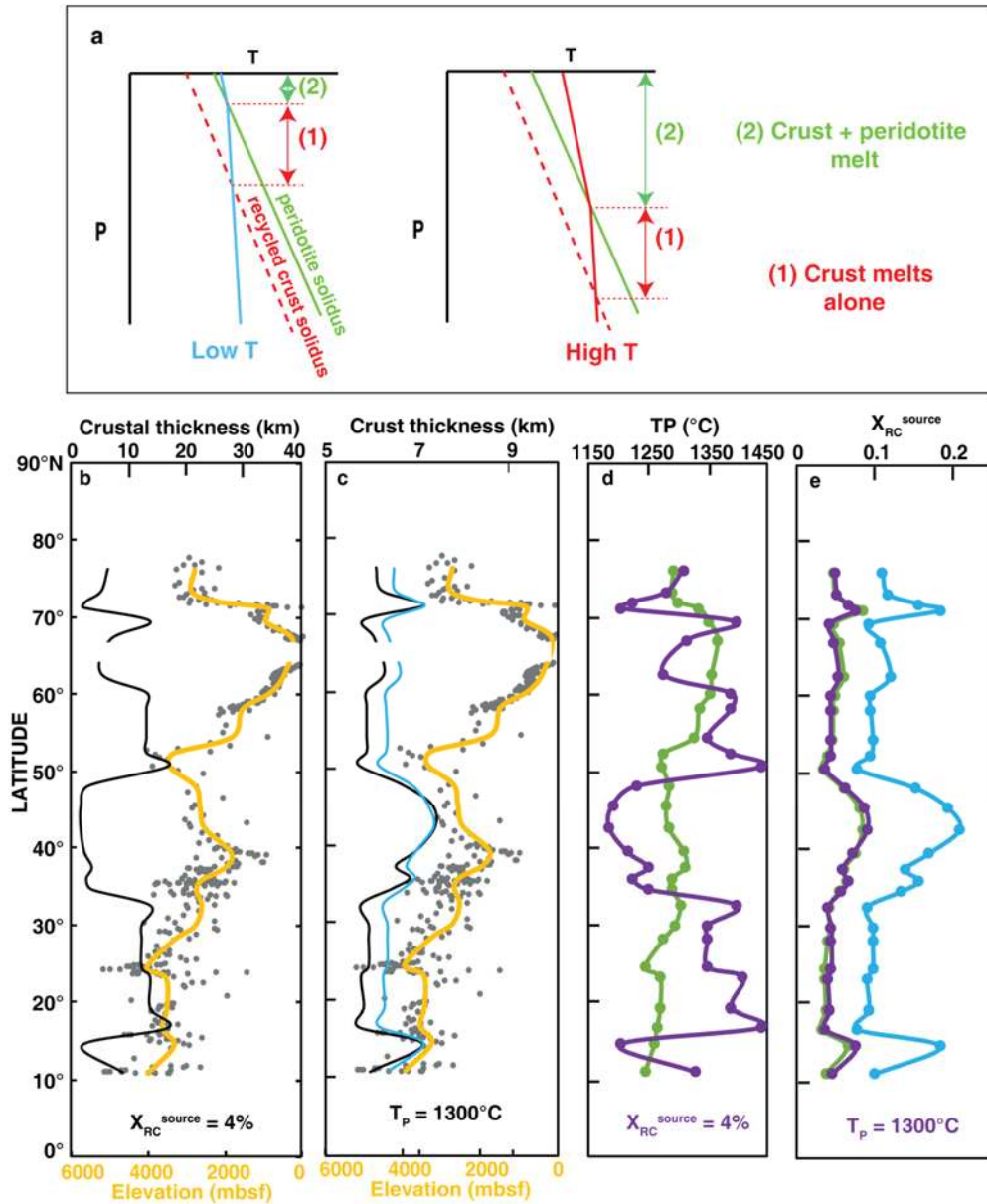
Supplementary Figure 3. Sr and Nd concentrations in selected minerals for micromilling (2 σ error bars).



Supplementary Figure 4. Standard analyses on TIMS. a. $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios (2SE error bars) measured on BHVO-2. Filaments were loaded with 10 ng (small circles) or 2 ng of Nd (large circles). **b.** $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ ratios (2SE error bars) measured on 200ng Sr separated from BHVO-2. Black line and grey band are the average and 2SD measured on BHVO-2 in this study. Solid and dashed red lines are average and 2SD reported for BHVO-2 in GeoReM database.



Supplementary Figure 5. Standard analyses on Nu Instrument. $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$ and $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios measured on JB-2 after correction for fractionation and mass bias (2SE error bars). Red bands are the range of values reported for JB-2 in GeoReM database.



Supplementary Figure 6. Results of geochemical modelling. **a.** Schematic illustration of the effect of mantle potential temperature (T_P) on the fraction of recycled crust in the melt: increasing T_P decreases the ratio between the interval where only the recycled crust is melting and the interval where both crust and peridotite are melting (i.e., (1)/(2) ratio). **b-c.** Comparison between the average MORB elevations (orange line) with the calculated crust thicknesses (black line), assuming a constant fraction of recycled crust, $X_{RC} = 4\%$, and varying T_P (b), or assuming a constant $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$ and varying the proportion of recycled crust (c). **d.** Calculated T_P with constant $X_{RC} = 4\%$ (purple) and the hybrid model (green). **e.** Calculated X_{RC}^{source} with constant $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$ (purple) and with the hybrid model (green). In (c) and (e), the blue line shows the results using $T_P = 1300^\circ\text{C}$ and the composition KG1 for the enriched material.

Supplementary Table 1. Isotopic analyses of clinopyroxenes, plagioclase and whole rocks plotted in Figs. 1&2.

Sample	depth (mbsf)	Plagioclase						Clinopyroxene						Whole rock	
		$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	Sr*	n	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	Nd*	n	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	Sr*	n	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$	Nd*	n	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$
15R1-43-45	84.54													0.703096 (9)	0.513184 (8)
36R1-48-53	196.09	0.702643 (8)	200	185	0.513169 (30)	8	114	0.703023 (10)	35	208	0.513191 (9)	30	168		
41R2-27-31a	221.25	0.702693 (8)	200	200	0.513136 (20)	2	96	0.703158 (14)	50	212	0.513024 (16)	4	181		
41R2-27-31b	221.50	0.704276 (44)	200	95				0.703823 (36)	50	54	0.513226 (87)	5	54		
54R3-125-126	285.15													0.702825 (10)	
65R1-141-143	335.42													0.702905 (11)	0.513169 (11)
73R2-124-129	375.12	0.702675 (9)	150	200	0.513224 (45)	3	59								
88R4-110-113	443.07				0.513170 (40)	1	66	0.702941 (9)	15	259	0.513135 (16)	3	82		
90R3-22-27	451.85	0.702600 (8)	200	200	0.513175 (24)	2	93	0.703196 (36)	120	501	0.513179 (3)	30	203		
104R3-113-115	519.76	0.702660 (9)	200	200	0.513127 (46)	2	77	0.703000 (8)	30	240	0.513125 (12)	8	80		
117R3-86-87	581.70													0.702999 (8)	0.513170 (8)
125R2-119-121	614.06													0.702941 (9)	0.513171 (10)
149R2-16-21	733.49	0.702611 (26)	200	200	0.513213 (40)	5	95	0.702861 (13)	30	208	0.513180 (72)	15	125		
149R2-68-71a	734.00	0.703272 (10)	200	200	0.513096 (64)	2	55	0.703238 (10)	15	222	0.512986 ⁺ (41)	2	94		
149R2-68-71b	734.00							0.704235 (57)	27	110	0.513078 (77)	5	56		
153R1-25-24	751.25													0.702938 (8)	0.513186 (8)
175R2-25-28	853.00	0.702662 (25)	200	100	0.513214 (34)	1	132	0.703571 (14)	50	272	0.513121 (18)	5	98		
179R4-118-123	875.33													0.702644 (7)	0.513154 (9)
187R3-23-27	911.63	0.702611 (8)	200	200	0.513121 (34)	6	74	0.702893 (9)	40	224	0.513135 (23)	10	80		
205R4-63-66	990.38													0.702698 (8)	0.513190 (9)
214R1-138-143	1031.01							0.702961 (10)	25	201	0.513106 (10)	5	139		
227R1-112-117	1093.15	0.702575 (8)	250	200	0.513179 (36)	2	76	0.702963 (10)	25	219	0.513163 (23)	5	86		
227R2-28-33	1093.74	0.702732 (8)	200	189	0.513012 (33)	3	108	0.702959 (10)	35	203	0.513116 (10)	5	135		
229R1-66-71	1102.29	0.702566 (8)	200	180	0.513090 (30)	3	131	0.702744 (8)	40	200	0.513155 (10)	10	93		
242R2-35-39	1174.37	0.702488 (9)	200	240	0.513099 (44)	2	79	0.702941 (10)	50	333	0.513137 (12)	17	81		
249R1-54-56	1197.25	0.702564 (9)	200	200	0.513134 (30)	3	83	0.702719 (10)	60	200	0.513177 (16)	12	58		
250R1-83-87	1202.35				0.513019 (184)	1	40	0.702836 (9)	30	301	0.513157 (20)	7			
250R2-60-66	1203.59	0.702530 (9)	200	200	0.513236 (116)	3	84				0.513235 (22)	20	121		
251R1-60-65	1206.93	0.702569 (9)	150	181				0.703256 (60)	10	88	0.513172 (17)	4	136		
251R3-59-62	1209.77							0.704269 (18)	15	241	0.513179 (16)	5	136		
252R4-3-6a	1215.43	0.702612 (6)	170	340	0.513174 (33)	2	106	0.702920 (9)	30	208	0.513207 ⁺ (23)	5	84		
252R4-3-6b	1215.43	0.702633 (8)	200	192				0.703130 (16)	80	155	0.513230 (109)	16	45		
252R4-3-6c	1215.43							0.707908 (11)	49	134	0.512857 (18)	10	67		
253R1-40-41	1216.31													0.702618 (8)	0.513204 (9)
253R3-0-3	1218.63													0.702600 (10)	
253R3-45-78	1219.07							0.702927 (8)	15	222	0.513151 (15)	2	97		
257R1-95-100a	1236.08	0.702594 (9)	200	200	0.513048 (56)	3	64	0.702884 (9)	30	240	0.512800 ⁺ (15)	5	73		
257R1-95-100b	1236.08	0.702574 (15)	200	119	0.513088 (49)	6	75	0.707341 (11)	41	103	0.512927 (38)	11	68		
257R1-95-100c	1236.08							0.706109 (12)	82	193	0.513100 (16)	22	65		
257R1-95-100d	1236.08							0.703154 (50)	44	63	0.513192 (26)	12	55		

Table S1. Continued

Sample	depth (mbsf)	Plagioclase			$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$			Clinopyroxene			$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$			Whole rock	
		$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	Sr*	n		Nd*	n	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	Sr*	n		Nd*	n	$^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$	$^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$
260R1-14-16	1249.65	0.702574 (8)	300	200				0.702865 (12)	35	227	0.513175 (17)	10	100	0.702664 (7)	0.513205 (7)
268R2-78-81	1290.03							0.702937 (9)	30	380	0.513194 (12)	10	108		
268R3-6-12	1290.69				0.513301 (104)	2	73							0.702779 (8)	0.513191 (9)
287R1-6-8	1377.67				0.513169 (136)	1	80	0.703858 (14)	40	227	0.513168 (30)	9	39		
292R1-75-77	1397.56														
1310-A1-0-13	0.07													0.702576 (9)	0.513214 (11)
1310-A1-13-19	0.16													0.702567 (10)	0.513210 (11)
1310-B1R1-0-5	0.03													0.702572 (8)	0.513203 (10)
1310-B1R1-62-69	0.66													0.702560 (9)	0.513207 (16)
1310-B1R1-139-143	1.41													0.702572 (9)	0.513198 (9)
1311-AR1-0-9	0.05													0.702515 (10)	0.513220 (11)
1311-AR1-48-54	0.51													0.702528 (8)	0.513223 (9)
1311-AR1-99-104	1.02													0.702525 (9)	0.513225 (11)
1311-AR1-136-142	1.39													0.702499 (5)	0.513226 (9)

2 SE (in parentheses) are given in terms of least unit cited: e.g., 0.702643 (8) represent 0.70264 ± 0.000008 .

n: number of cycles for each analyses

* Amount of Sr and Nd (in ng) analysed calculated from Sr and Nd concentration and estimated volume of milled mineral

+ $^{143}\text{Nd}/^{144}\text{Nd}$ ratios uncorrected for Sm: 0.512936±31 for 149R2-68-71a, 0.513169±19 for 252-R4-3-6a and 0.512783±15 for 257R1-95-100a.